



Related Medlearn Matters Article #: SE0540

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CMS Releases New Educational Guide on Remittance Advice (RA) Notices

Key Words

SE0540, Remittance Advice Notice, RA, remittance

Provider Types Affected

All Providers

Key Points

- CMS released a national educational guide about the Remittance Advice Notice (RA) for Medicare-Fee-For-Service (FFS) providers, physicians, suppliers and their billing staff.
- Medicare contractors (FIs, RHHIs, Carriers, and DMERCs) use the standard Remittance Advice to communicate claim processing decisions about payments, adjustments and denials as well as information about missing and/or incorrect data from incoming claims that needs to be submitted or corrected before a payment decision can be made on that claim.
- CMS wants to be certain that providers understand how to read and interpret the RA given that it may impact the provider's Medicare business. CMS developed *Understanding the Remittance Advice: A Guide for Medicare Providers, Physicians, Suppliers and Billers* as a self-help tool.
- The guide is composed of:
 - Four chapters, each highlighting a specific aspect of the RA
 - An acronym list
 - A glossary
 - Important web sites and phone numbers
 - Three indices – Key terms and concepts; Institutional ERA and SPR field descriptions, and; Professional SPR field descriptions.
- The Guide's benefits include:
 - Easy access to general information about RAs without direct personal assistance from Medicare contractor customer staff (time-saving)
 - Increased ability to understand and interpret the reasons for claim denials and claim adjustments

- Reduction in the resubmission of claims due to errors
- Rapid follow-up action, resulting in quicker payment
- A useful tool for training new staff or a refresher for experienced staff
- The ability to print out only the chapter or section you need
- Print copies will be available late summer of 2005. Electronically accessible Guides are currently available at the link listed below.

Important Links

SE0540: CMS Releases New Educational Guide on Remittance Advice (RA) Notices

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/SE0540.pdf>

Understanding the Remittance Advice: A Guide for Medicare Providers, Physicians, Suppliers and Billers:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/RA_Guide_05-27-05.pdf

Contact your carrier for information by using the toll-free provider lines. To obtain the toll-free number, visit :

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/tollnums.asp>